

# **We Have Always Existed**

## **Transgender People Through History**





# Content warnings

This zine has content that may be  
Triggering or uncomfy. Please take  
care of yourself and decide if reading  
is safe.

- Transphobia
- Racism
- Violence
- Gatekeeping
- Suicide
- HIV/AIDS
- Addiction

Nothing too graphic, just some  
Mentions!



**Albert Cashier 1846-1915**

**Albert Cashier was one of many people who despite being assigned female at birth, dressed as a man and fought in the US civil war. He was an Irish born union soldier. He identified as a man before enlisting in the union army, and maintained his male identity and expression throughout his life. He fought in approximately 40 battles throughout his career.**

**After the war, Cashier worked as a farm hand and held many odd jobs. Several people had found out about Cashiers assigned gender, before he was committed a psychiatric hospital and forced to wear woman's clothing and return to living as a woman. Cashier was buried in his uniform and his tombstone was inscribed with his chosen name.**



**Harry Allen 1882-1922**

Harry Allen's life was chronicled in newspapers across the Pacific Northwest, following his many arrests for petty crimes. Newspapers would address him using his birth name and she/her pronouns (which he spoke out against). His careers included ranch hand, bronco buster, longshoreman, bartender, boxing second, and hotel clerk. His arrests varied from theft, to sex work, to dressing as a man.



**Alan L Hart 1890-1962**



**Alan L Hart was a physician, tuberculosis researcher, and writer. Hart is the first trans man on record to transition medically in the U.S., having lower surgery and hormone replacement therapy. He was outed several times in both social and professional circles. His work in fiction writing often contained themes of LBGTQ+ lives, and dysphoria.**



**Billy Tipton 1914-1989**

American jazz musician Billy Tipton was active in a career that lasted over 3 decades. In the 1930's Tipton began presenting as male both on and off stage. He was never formally married but had several serious partners over his lifetime, many of whom were not aware of Tipton's transness. He was outed publicly after his death in 1989. Despite his wishes for it to remain a secret, his birth sex was revealed in tabloids across the country.



**Willmer "Little Axi" Broadnax  
1916-1992**

At the height of traditional Black gospel, Willmer Broadnax was a gospel quartet singer. We don't know a lot about his life before transition, because his being assigned female at birth was only discovered by the public after his death in 1992. His family supported his transition, and respected his wish to not be openly transgender.



**Marsha P. Johnson 1945-1992**

Marsha “pay it no mind” Johnson was a LGBTQ+ rights activist during and around the time of the stonewall riots. She was one of the founders of S.T.A.R (street transvestites action revolutionaries) and was involved in AIDS activism with ACT UP. Johnson was a large part of new York City’s queer and art scene, and even modeled for Andy Warhol. Living on the streets, being a black trans woman, and surviving through sex work, left her vulnerable to police violence. She had been arrested, by her estimate, over 100 times. Shortly after the pride parade in 1992, Johnson’s body was found in the Hudson River. Her death was ruled a suicide, though many of those who knew her believe her death was not self inflicted.



**Lou Sullivan 1951-1991**



Lou Sullivan is known of as possibly the first transgender man to be out publicly as gay, as well as trans. Sullivan pursued medical transition after moving to San-Francisco, but was denied several times because of his sexual orientation.

By 1986 he had obtained access to hormone replacement therapy, double mastectomy, and lower surgery.

Shortly after his lower surgery, Sullivan tested HIV positive "I took a certain pleasure in informing the gender clinic that even though their program told me I could not live as a Gay man, it looks like I'm going to die like one."

After his death in 1991, parts of Sullivan's journals were published as a book 'We Both Laughed In Pleasure: the Selected Diaries of Lou Sullivan'.



**Sylvia Rivera 1952-2002**

Sylvia Rivera was a co founder of S.T.A.R (street transvestites action revolutionaries) alongside close friend, Marsha P Johnson. Rivera struggled with Homelessness, systematic racism, poverty and during parts of her life, substance abuse. She was passionate about using her voice to help the most vulnerable people in the queer community. Though it is unclear if she actually attended the stone-wall riots, her activism before and after made huge strides in the ongoing fight for queer & trans liberation.



**Leelah Alcorn 1997-2014**

**After being sent to conversion camps several times throughout her youth, 17 year old Leelah Alcorn took her own life. Her suicide note posted on her Tumblr went viral shortly after her death. Petitions were formed in support of “Leelah’s Law” which would ban conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ youth.**

**Transgender suicide hotline:  
(877) 565-8860**

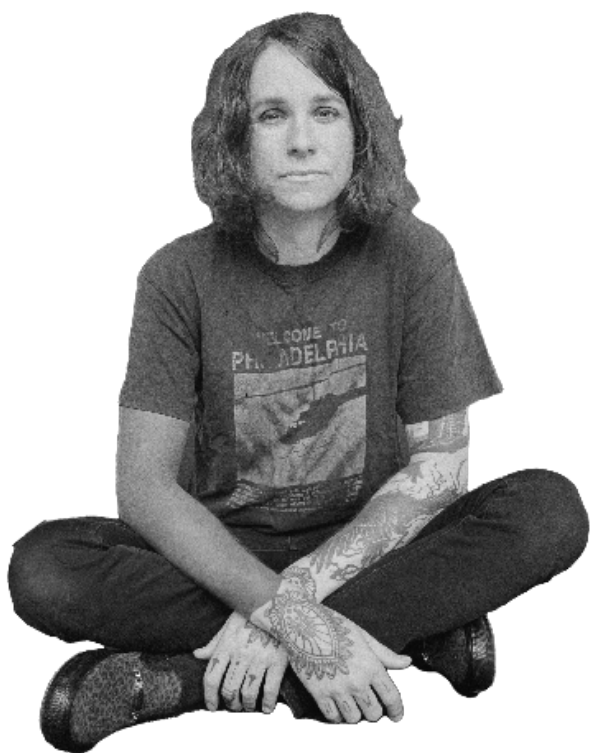
**National (U.S.) Suicide Prevention Hotline:  
1-800-273-8255**



**Miss Major 1940- present**

**Miss Major Griffin Gracy is a transgender community leader who is especially passionate about the rights of trans women of color. She was the first executive director of the transgender gender variant intersex justice project, an advocacy group for the disproportionately incarcerated transgender community. Miss Major was arrested during an infamous raid of the Stonewall Inn. Following her arrest she faced violence at the hands of correction officers.**

**Her activism has been instrumental in transgender liberation.**



**Laura Jane Grace 1980-present**



Laura Jane Grace is the founder, lead singer, songwriter, and guitarist of punk rock band Against Me! She became one of the first highly visible transgender people in the punk rock scene when she came out as a trans woman in 2012. Against Me! Released studio album "transgender Dysphoria Blues" in 2014. She once even burnt her birth certificate on stage! Grace later wrote and published a book alongside Dan Ozzy about her life, mostly based off entries from a journal she has kept since third grade. The songs she writes are a protest against patriarchy, transphobia, and classism.



**Alok Vaid-Menon 1991- present**

Alok Vaid-Menon is a gender non conforming multi media artist. Their parents immigrated from Malaysia and India, and they were raised in Texas. Their main focuses are performance art (including poetry, and political comedy) and fashion design.

as a child, Vaid-Menon was often bullied for their race and gender expression. A reoccurring theme in their art is the struggle of living under transmisogyny in a binary and cis- centric environment.

# Legacy

Not only were our transgender Ancestors the main reason we have the rights that we do now, they are also a reminder of our community's resilience and power. Often we are able to look to our past for guidance, and affirmation that we have always existed, and we will not stop finding ourselves. we will not stop fighting, and we will not stop thriving.

**Thanks  
for  
reading**

**Keep loving,  
Keep fighting**





**@Cedar\_creates**